Anti-Slavery Office,

New York, 17 May, 1865.

My Dear May,

87 Your protest came this morning, and I thank you for it. It is timely and hits the nail on the head. It will make a fluttering in the camp of the revolutionists, but the effect upon the cause will be wholesome.

I think I never before so much wanted to see you as I did after the annual meeting was over. At first my feelings of mortification and indignation were intense in view of the disposition made of your resolution in relation to the Standard. It was cowardly and base in Phillips and his party, after the charges they have made against the Standard, to deprive me of a stick of all opportunity for defence before the

Society. Some friends have gone so far as to say that the count of the negative vote upon the motion to refer was purposely careless and therefore dishonest. On that point I say nothing myself. The trick might have been defeated if anybody had been thoughtful enough to tell the meeting that the motion was tantamount to a motion to lay on (or under) the table, and that such was the meaning of the mover. I was amused afterwards that some of those who voted for the motion thought the reference was to the Business Committee, and that the resolution would come up again. Not one in ten of those who voted for dissolution were aware that the Executive Committee had been revolutionized. A little plain talk on that point would

have defeated the trick by which they averted a discussion of the Standard, and then we would have beaten them by a large majority. But it is too late now to lament the result. Phillips has got what the lawyers call a "negative pregnant" against the Standard, and doubtless thinks he has won a triumph. But let him not boast himself. The case is to be reviewed by the readers of the Standard, whose verdict will not be so flattering to him, perhaps, as he may anticipate.

I have never felt a keener sense of responsibility than in deciding upon the character of my valedictory. Should I ignore all that had taken place, and take my leave in a few pleasant words; or should I explain to the readers the cause and meaning of

revolution in the Society and the Standard? I talked with Garrison and Thompson, and they both thought I should take the latter course. I pondered the question a great while before writing a word, and finally concluded that I owed it to myself and to the readers of the Paper to make a clean breast; and I have done so. My valedictory is in large part the speech which I had no opportunity to make in the meeting. I have written it with care, and ~~have~~ read it to Gay and Wendell Garrison, who commend it highly. I would give a $5 greenback for a chance to read it to you before printing it; but that is impossible, and I must "let it slide." I fondly hope it will strike all my friends as a truthful, dignified statement, called for by the peculiar circumstances in which I was placed. The more I think of

it, the more indignant I feel toward Phillips for the course he has pursued in putting himself at the head of an anti-Garrison party in the Society, and allowing Pillsbury and the Foster's to fight their battle in his name. I trust he will live to be ashamed of himself.

I wish you had been here on Thursday morning to note the lordly host with which P.P. and his tribe entered upon these premises! Lord, how grand they felt! I found Phillips in my editorial chair, while his partizans literally thronged the room. Soon after I entered, Mr. Johnson Phillips said: "We are acting on the assumption that your purpose to retire from the Standard, as announced last week, is fixed. Are we right?" "Certainly," I said. "I do not represent your views or your spirit and am therefore

not qualified to be your servants."
I told them my desire was to issue
this week's number, letting my resig-
nation take effect when it should have
gone to press. To this they agreed. Af-
terwards I learned that P. P. was
appointed, temporarily, as my successor;
the very man of all others whom I
should prefer, since he is the true
incarnation of the revolution in
the Society.

This is, probably, the last letter
you will ever get from me under
~~dated~~ date of "Anti-Slavery Office." There
are, of course, some painful senti-
ments in leaving a place which I have
so long filled; but I have written my
"farewell" with a cheerful heart. It
is so grand to feel that the great
object for which I have so long battled
has been gained. That is compen-

ration enough for all that is disagreeable in the circumstances attending my retirement.

How base it was to requite Mr. Quincy for his twenty-one years of invaluable service by refusing even to pass a vote of thanks! Of my own case I say nothing, but surely such treatment of him was mean. A niggardly country parish, when it would put a bore out of its pulpit, sends him away with kind words and money in his purse. The American Anti-Slavery Society, under the fell spirit which has now taken possession of it, rewards with a kick the man whose writings, &c continued for over twenty years, have given its organ [redacted] a high position among the journals of this country and of Europe. It seems to me that Abolitionists owe it to

their own honor to reverse the verdict of the Society by some testimonial which would be grateful to his feelings. Mr. Thompson suggested that a gift of beautiful engravings would be the thing. I wish the suggestion might be carried into effect. If anything is done about it, you may put me down for $5.00, and have my name for a commendatory letter.

I shall be happy to hear from you at an early day. My future is not yet decided. Please address me at No. 90 E. 12th St.

Remember me very cordially to your wife and daughter, and believe me, dear friend,

Yours, perpetually,

Olive Johnson

Oliver Johnson to
W. L. G.
on distributing his connec-
tion with the Anti-Slavery
Standard, May 10, 1865.

William Lloyd Garrison,

Ed. Liberator,

Boston.